



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719
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November 20, 2024

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Barbara Acksen, David Flaherty

ABSENT: Brian Meneses

1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Frezza called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Chair Frezza welcomed everyone.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Chair Frezza read the media and recording notifications.

4. Minutes of the Meeting

- a. **Motion**: Member Acksen made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting October 23, 2024. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers are at 15.94%, which is down from 17.78%. This is from positive tests in a clinical setting only.
- b. Blood pressure and wellness clinics offered every Wednesday at the COA from 1-3 pm.
- c. Gastrointestinal illness cases, such as the norovirus, have risen in Fairhaven and the SouthCoast. It is now influenza season as well. Be sure to wash hands often, after the restroom, before preparing, serving, and eating meals. Sanitize surfaces frequently. Please consult your physician regarding vaccination for influenza.
- d. Arbovirus surveillance has ended and Fairhaven had a hard frost, which decreases the mosquito and tick risk.
- e. Two Perc tests were witnessed and one Title 5 inspection was witnessed.

- f. Dumpster information has gone out to all establishments permitted by the Health Department. A list of dumpsters in town was obtained from E.L. Harvey and those businesses have been notified. The application has also been incorporated into the Building Department construction and demolition permits. The Health Department has had a good response so far.
- g. Rodent complaints are still coming in. Please be vigilant with trash and birdseed on your property. Consult a licensed exterminator for property treatment in conjunction with neighbors if it seems overwhelming.
- h. Fairhaven home-bound residents qualify for a free home-bound flu vaccine offered by the Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative to provide an in-home vaccine. Please check the Health Department webpage for more information.
- i. The Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative has provided medication disposal bags, sharps containers, CPR masks, tick removers, sunblock and pill containers (these are available in English and Spanish). Please visit the Health Department for any of these free items. Agent Flaherty attends bi-weekly meetings and there is a webpage, and Facebook page. Please check the Health Department website for postings on upcoming events.
- j. Agent Flaherty attended the Annual Massachusetts Health Officers Association Seminar in Springfield, MA last week. This Seminar allows Agent Flaherty to earn Continuing Education Credits. The main topic was IA systems and what is coming in the future for Title 5.

6. Vote to Release all Executive Session Minutes Regarding 6 Evergreen – Agent Flaherty reviewed these minutes were already approved by the Board of Health at a previous meeting. This vote is to release the minutes to the public. **Motion:** Member Acksen made a motion to release all executive session minutes regarding 6 Evergreen. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).

7. Discussion and Finalize Proposed Tobacco Regulations – Chair Frezza reviewed the last item to discuss was the suspension and fines. The Board reviewed the suspension time for each violation. Agent Flaherty notes that all establishments have training for employees on the appropriate procedure to check IDs at this point. The Board determined 7, 14, 30 days respectively for the suspensions. Chair Frezza notes that the fines are set by the state. The Board also set that a new tobacco establishment may not be within 1,000 feet of any existing tobacco establishment. Chair Frezza reviewed that a checklist was provided in the regulation packet. The list was as follows:

- a) No permit renewal if any outstanding fines exist. The Board is in agreement.
- b) No permit renewal if three sales to persons under 21. The Board is in agreement.

- c) Cap or reduce number of permits. The Board agrees to cap at 20.
- d) No new permits within 500ft of a school. The Board is in agreement.
- e) No new tobacco establishment within xft of another tobacco establishment. The Board agrees to 1,000ft.
- f) Ban smoking bars. The Board is agreement.
- g) Ban redemption of coupons. Agent Flaherty notes the state does not allow coupons. The Board is in agreement.
- h) Ban free distribution of products. The Board is in agreement.
- i) Ban self-service displays. The Board is in agreement.
- j) Ban tobacco in educational institutes. The Board is in agreement.
- k) Tolling period for local violations. The state has 36 months. The Board is in agreement.
- l) The use of shall vs may. The Board agrees to use shall.

All other items on the list the Board already discussed. Agent Flaherty notes the advertisement regarding the Public Hearing will be posted in the Neighborhood News for two consecutive weeks. Agent Flaherty expects the Public Hearing to be in December.

8. Public Comment

- a. 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues

9. Invoices, Correspondence and any other business that may properly come before the Board not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

10. Next Meeting Date – December 4, 2024 at 5:00pm

11. Meeting Adjourned – Motion: Member Acksen motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).